AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be used in a friction stir welding, comprising:

at an end portion of said hollow frame member adapted to be used in the friction stir welding, said hollow frame member has a raised portion which projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said hollow frame member from one side face of said hollow frame member and is provided integrally on said end portion of said hollow frame member,

said raised portion of said hollow frame member has a substantially uniform width in an extruded direction of said hollow frame member and has a substantially uniform height,

said raised portion of said hollow frame member is a portion adapted to have a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out the friction stir welding,

at said end portion of said hollow frame member, said hollow frame member includes a vertical plate, said vertical plate being located such that said rotary tool is above the vertical plate and the vertical plate supports a load during the friction stir welding,

during the friction stir welding, material of said raised portion of said hollow frame member fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and another hollow frame member to be friction stir welded to said hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member abut each other, and

an abutted portion of said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member extends~~extend~~ in a direction substantially perpendicular to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member.

2. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be used in a friction stir welding, comprising:

a first plate, a second plate which is substantially in parallel to said first plate, a third plate connecting said first plate and said second plate, and a raised portion integrally provided on an end portion of said first plate,

said raised portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said first plate of said hollow frame member from one side face of said first plate of said hollow frame member,

said raised portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member has a substantially uniform width in an extruded direction of said hollow frame member and has a substantially uniform height,

said raised portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member is a portion adapted to have a rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out the friction stir welding,

said third plate being located such that said rotary tool is positioned above said third plate and said third plate supports a load during said friction stir welding,

during the friction stir welding, material of said raised portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and another hollow frame member to be friction stir welded to said hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member abut each other, and

an abutted portion of said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member extendsextend in a direction substantially perpendicular to said thickness direction of said first plate of said hollow frame member.

3. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein:

at an end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member, at a side of an end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member having said raised portion, saidthe hollow frame member has a further raised portion,

said further raised portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member projects to an outer side in a thickness direction of said second plate from one side face of said second plate of said hollow frame member,

said further raised portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member has a substantially uniform width in saidthe extruded direction of said hollow frame member and has a substantially uniform height,

said further raised portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member is a portion adapted to have said rotary tool inserted therein so as to carry out the friction stir welding,

said third plate being positioned such that, during the friction stir welding where the rotary tool is inserted into the further raised portion, said third plate of said hollow frame member supports a load,

during the friction stir welding, material of said further raised portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member fills any gaps, between said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member to be friction stir welded to said

hollow frame member, which exist when said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member abut each other, and

the abutted portion of said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said thickness direction of said second plate of said hollow frame member.

4. -5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 3, wherein said first and second plates of said hollow frame member respectively have exposed outer faces, and wherein said raised portion and said further raised portion respectively project beyond the exposed outer faces of the first and second plates in said thickness direction.

7. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 6, wherein said exposed outer faces are exposed during said friction stir welding.

8. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 6, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said exposed outer faces.

9. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 3, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said first plate.

10. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said first plate of said hollow frame member has an exposed outer face, and wherein said raised portion projects beyond the exposed outer face in said thickness direction.

11. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 10, wherein said exposed outer face is exposed during said friction stir welding.

12. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 10, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said exposed outer face.

13. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said first plate.

14. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 1, wherein said one side face of said hollow frame member is adapted to be exposed during said friction stir welding.

15. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 1, wherein said thickness direction is a direction perpendicular to said one side face.

16. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 1, wherein said raised portion is a portion adapted to have the rotary tool inserted therein in said thickness direction so as to carry out the friction stir welding.

17. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said raised portion is a portion adapted to have the rotary tool inserted therein in said thickness direction so as to carry out the friction stir welding.

18. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 1, wherein said hollow frame member includes said raised portion and a remaining portion other than said raised portion, and wherein said remaining portion and said raised portion are made of a same material.

19. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 2, wherein said raised portion and said first plate, said second plate and said third plate, are all made of a same material.

20. (Previously presented) The hollow frame member according to claim 1, friction stir welded to said another hollow frame member, thereby forming a friction stir welded hollow frame member.

21. (Previously presented) The hollow frame member according to claim 2, friction stir welded to said another hollow frame member, thereby forming a friction stir welded hollow frame member.

22. (Previously presented) The hollow frame member according to claim 3, friction stir welded to said another hollow frame member, thereby forming a friction stir welded hollow frame member.